

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. An access control system, comprising:
 - 2 an electronic device adapted for operation using power from a power source, said
 - 3 power source energizing a circuit of said electronic device for enabling a startup
 - 4 procedure of said electronic device;
 - 5 a switch, coupled between said power source and said processor, for enabling said
 - 6 energizing of said circuit responsive to an assertion of an activation signal; and
 - 7 a biometric reader coupled to said switch, comprising:
 - 8 a memory for storing a biometric signature;
 - 9 a biometric sensor, coupled to said memory, for discerning a biometric
 - 10 profile; and
 - 11 a verifier, coupled to said biometric sensor and to said memory, for
 - 12 asserting said activation signal when said biometric profile matches said biometric
 - 13 signature.

2. A method for controlling access to an electronic device,
comprising:

discerning a biometric profile of a prospective user of the electronic
device;

- 5 comparing said biometric profile to a stored biometric signature of an
authorized user of the electronic device; thereafter
 asserting an activation signal to a switch when said prospective user is an
authorized user, said switch interposed between a power source of the electronic device
and a circuit of the electronic device for enabling a startup procedure of said electronic
device such that said switch interrupts power to said circuit when said activation signal is
not asserted.